# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2506
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
EXPORT OF FOODGRAINS
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**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) the share of the country in the foodgrain market as on date;

(b) whether the Government has not prepared itself to face the competition in this market leading to declining exports of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the country competitive in the International Market under the open market system of the W.T.O.?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) The share of India`s in the global foodgrain export (according to Food & Agriculture Organization) was about 0.7% in 2005. The low percentage of share in global foodgrain export is due to high domestic consumption and high prices of the foodgrains in the country itself. However, for the premium basmati rice, the Government of India has taken several initiatives in promoting its competitiveness in international market. Promotional exercise by wet sampling, and gift pouches have been undertaken in several prime destinations like Europe, Middle East and South Africa etc. A dedicated basmati rice DNA testing facility has been created at the Centre for DNA, fingerprinting, and diagnostic, Hyderabad to cater to the requirement of DNA testing for European Union market. A Basmati Export Development Foundation has been set up at Modipuram, Meerut with complete mandate for pre and post harvest management of basmati rice.

(d) One of the India`s keep priorities in the agriculture negotiations at World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the substantial and effective reduction in domestic support and tariff in agricultural products of developed country. Besides, it is targeting the elimination of export subsidies extended by developed countries. This would increase the competitiveness of our agricultural exports. The Government also extends financial assistance for infrastructure development, quality development, R&D, market development and transport assistance to make the prices of foodgrain competitive in the global market.